

control mechanism with a view to reducing the rigours of price control, where they had become counter productive. Another Committee, the Pharmaceutical Research & Development Committee was set up to recommend measures to strengthen the research & development capability of the Pharmaceutical Industry in the country and identify the support required by Indian Pharmaceutical companies to undertake domestic R&D. Both the Committees have since submitted their reports suggesting measures in that direction. Changes in the Pharmaceutical Policy will take into consideration all relevant factors including the recommendations of the Committees.

Gratuity and PF arrears in SSPL and BIL

1409. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether gratuity and PF dues have not been paid to some retired employees of SSPL and BIL;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether some employees are due for premature retirement because of change of retirement age from 60 to 58;
- (d) if so, whether adequate financial provisions are available to pay their dues, alongwith those referred to in part(a) above; and
- (e) if not, the reasons for forcing retirement without making arrangement for payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) 16 retired employees in SSPL and 71 in BIL have not been paid their gratuity. In BIL, 100 retired employees have not been paid their PF dues. The age of superannuation of the employees of BIL and SSPL has been rolled back from 60 years to 58 years. These companies due to their poor internal generation of funds have not been above to make payments towards terminal benefits even to some of those employees who are retiring/have-retired at the age of 60 years.